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The Daily Gamecock, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

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The Daily Gamecock

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

VOL. 101, NO. 26 • SINCE 1908



Recyclers ready to reduce, reuse

Organization cuts stadium trash

Sean Gruber
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A recycling program aimed at ending waste from football games is making progress but still struggling to find volunteers.

The Palmetto Pride recycling and litter partnership made its return to Williams-Brice stadium this season after a hiatus in 2006.

The program is responsible for sorting recyclable materials from regular trash, and uses volunteers to inform stadium goers of the 75 recycling stations placed around the area.

Volunteers work about three hours a game to "encourage people to use the recycling bins for aluminum cans and plastic bottles, and not to put their trash on the ground," said Jennifer Fisher, Marketing Coordinator for Palmetto Pride. The volunteers work until half time, and then watch the remainder of the game.

Each game is supposed to have 20 volunteers making the rounds, but the most so far has been eight, said Kelly Lewis, director of operation facilities at the stadium.

"They aren't running at full force yet," Lewis said of the program. She said that without more college student volunteers, "this program will not be a success." Lewis works with Palmetto Pride to schedule the program's volunteers.

Sarah Robinson, public relations coordinator for Palmetto Pride, agrees.

"That's an age range we need to hit," Robinson said. "We would love to have more student volunteers. Our goal right now is to get the program in every university in the state."

Recycling programs have started at Clemson University and South Carolina State University, and from 2004 to 2005, recycling at Williams-Brice increased 300 percent, Robinson said. More than 7,000 pounds of plastic bottles were recycled in 2005.

The staff at Williams-Brice welcomes the help. "We fill an average of six and a half 40-yard dumpsters per game," says Jim Shealy, facilities coordinator at the stadium. "Most of it is plastic bottles; we use so much here. I would like (the volunteers) to focus on that."

Without a full staff of volunteers, Palmetto Pride still wants to get its message of recycling out to the public.

"We want everyone to reduce their waste and we want to encourage them to recycle," Fisher said. "We also want to raise awareness and get this program in every university in the state."

Regardless of the program's success, Robinson is proud of her job and organization.

"I love my job," she said. "We want to encourage people to do what they can. We are really appreciative to those already on board with litter reduction and recycling, and we want to encourage others to jump on board. Make the world a better place."

USC students can volunteer for the program by e-mailing Jennifer Fisher at jfisher@palmettopride.org or calling 803-758-6032.

A Look Inside: USC's Clubs & Organizations

Brad Maxwell
STAFF WRITER

This story is part of an occasional series profiling USC's clubs and organizations. If your group would like to be profiled, e-mail gcknews@gwm.sc.edu.

The Vietnamese Student Association is full of students of all ethnic backgrounds, who share an appreciation for Asian culture and food, community service and having fun.

Tan Khuu, a fourth-year biology student and president of VSA, said that the organization aims to promote Vietnamese culture, contribute to both local and global communities, and "create an air of welcomeness," for all its members.

"It's a good place to meet people and make friends," Khuu said. "Being a part of VSA allows students to connect with their heritage."

An upcoming event, called Bun Thit Nuong, will be an ethnic food night where members can come and socialize while learning about some of the ethnic dishes of Vietnam. Khuu said there are also holiday potlucks throughout the year.

Although the majority of its members are Vietnamese, Khuu said students from every ethnic background are members, and all are welcome.

Alex Wang, a second-year political science student,



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Khanh Khuu, Tan Khuu and Andrew Graczyk sport traditional male Vietnamese garments for at a picnic.

joined the group this fall. Wang, who is Taiwanese, said there aren't many Asian organizations on campus and wanted to be part of one.

"There is a real strong focus on promoting the cultural aspects of the organization," he said of the group. "It's about having fun and understanding Vietnamese culture."

Khuu said that although there are plenty of social activities to increase the bond of the group, their main purpose is cultural awareness and community outreach. The group has recently become involved with Service Saturdays.

"Service Saturday was lots of fun," said Quynh Pham, a first-year pre-pharmacy student who initially joined the organization in an effort to get to know more people on campus.

"They really do try to bring people together," Pham said. "It's not just meetings. People get together just to have fun and learn about the culture," he said.

At meetings, students watch videos about Vietnamese people around the world.

Khuu said that this year one of the main focuses of the organization will be on an international charity,

Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment. According to Khuu, the charity gives aid to Vietnamese refugees in southern Asia who are living harsh lives and often end up the victims of human trafficking.

Tentatively, the group hopes to hold events in the spring such as a Red Carpet Night to raise money for the charity.

Khuu said he wants to help organize events that involve other minority organizations.

"Together we can do great things," Khuu said.

The organization also hopes to become more

connected with the VSA at colleges across the Southeast.

"We're a family here, and a part of a bigger family," Khuu said. The group often travels to schools like the University of Georgia to support other campus VSA events.

Khuu is excited about all the events planned for the year and the growth of the organization.

"This year, everyone seems a whole lot more connected," Khuu said. "We're gonna be big this year."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu



Alison Stichcomb / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Goldfish appeared in Thomas Cooper Library fountain as a prank this week.

Fish adapt after prank

Goldfish struggle for survival in library fountain

Travis Frayard
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

With the homecoming football game against Mississippi State set to kick off Saturday, the practice of homecoming pranks is in full swing. This week, South

Carolina has been playing host to a couple of uninvited guests. The fountain outside of the Thomas Cooper Library has recently become home to a small school of goldfish.

Student reaction to the fish so far has been positive.

"I think it is cool," said Becky Calejo, a third-year criminal justice student. "I think we should keep them in there and put a fish feeder by the pond." Margaret Boykin, a

fourth-year criminal justice student, agrees. "They should expand the variety of fish in the pond so I can fish in between classes."

This action is a suspected prank of an unknown on-campus Greek organization. The pranksters not only put the fish into the Thomas Cooper pond, but have also apparently been feeding them there for the last couple of days.

USC students blog about Carolina life

Professors also to post about what's important when being Gamecocks

Katie Jones
STAFF WRITER

As a part of the "What Makes a Carolinian?" campaign, USC is launching a group of student-written blogs.

Six students will blog about what they think defines a Carolinian three times a week, said Maegan Gudridge, public relations coordinator for student affairs and the department of academic support.

"This is an opportunity for students to say what is important to them about the university, what they hold important about themselves and their fellow students, to influence campus culture, to encourage the other students on campus to look at themselves," Gudridge said.

Gudridge is not sure when the blogs will be

launched. The project is scheduled to last a semester but could be extended based on its success.

The USC Blog Team, sponsored by undergraduate admissions and directed towards prospective students, consists of five students and two admissions officers. They have been blogging for about a year.

As opposed to the USC Blog, which tells prospective students what it is like to be a USC student, the "What Makes a Carolinian?" blog will "get current students involved in a conversation about what it means to be a University of South Carolina student, how special that is, how they are part of a select group," Gudridge said.

Second year pre-pharmacy student Kriska Carandang is a part of the USC Blog Team.

"I really enjoy blogging," Carandang said. "It's really been a good opportunity to share with others the Carolina experience that

Roads close in 5 Points

Construction leads to traffic delays, detours in downtown Columbia

Intersection of Greene and Laurens streets (the railroad crossing by Salty Nut café): This intersection has undergone realignment. Expect lane and street closings for both Laurens and Greene streets.

Intersection of Saluda Avenue and Blossom Street: Installation of a new fountain in the median of Saluda Avenue across from Wachovia Bank has started. Work will continue for the next 12 weeks.

Traffic signals have been switched to this intersection. A new pedestrian crossing area to the South of the new center traffic pole will be installed this week.

Greene Street: Landscaping and irrigation maintenance and adjusting work are now in progress.

Intersection of Blossom and Harden streets: New traffic signals are now in operation at this intersection. Pedestrian

signal heads and pushbuttons have been installed and now work.

Devine Street: New traffic signals are now in operation, including audible push buttons for the sight impaired.

Harden Street: Landscaping and irrigation maintenance are scheduled for the 600 to the 1100 blocks.

Everywhere: Utility and traffic signal poles are being taken down by

SCE&G as underground services are connected to existing buildings and services. Traffic control signs continue to be set in locations throughout the project.

All businesses along construction areas remain open. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Road surfaces will be uneven and driver caution is urged.

—From Staff reports

CENTER COULD CREATE JOBS

Dubai-based company looking at S.C. for distribution center

Page Ivey
The Associated Press

A Dubai-based company is looking to build a distribution center and warehouses in economically depressed Orangeburg County, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn said Wednesday.

Clyburn, D-S.C., said a deal with Jafza International is not done, but "I understand some land closings have taken place in the last couple of days."

Clyburn said he has talked with local officials about the deal in his district.

Two South Carolina newspapers, quoting unnamed sources, said the Dubai-based firm was planning to locate a \$600 million logistics center in central South Carolina, creating 8,000 jobs.

The State and The Times and Democrat, quoting an unidentified adviser to the company, said Jafza is buying land near Interstates 95 and 26 and U.S. Highway 301, an area local economic developers refer to as the Global Logistics Triangle.

The newspapers quoted the company adviser as saying the company is buying about 1,300 acres of land in Orangeburg for a complex of warehouses.

The land was being bought

DUBAI ● A3

Candidate opens shop

Thompson's Carolina campaign will run out of Clyburn's old office

Jim Davenport
The Associated Press

Though the space is cramped and the air conditioning hasn't always worked well, Republican presidential candidate Fred Thompson is moving his South Carolina campaign into new offices that launched the career of the state's top Democrat, Majority Whip James Clyburn.

The former Tennessee senator's campaign signed a lease on the office, located a few blocks from the Statehouse, and should be able to move in next week, real estate broker Houston Fitzpatrick said Thursday.

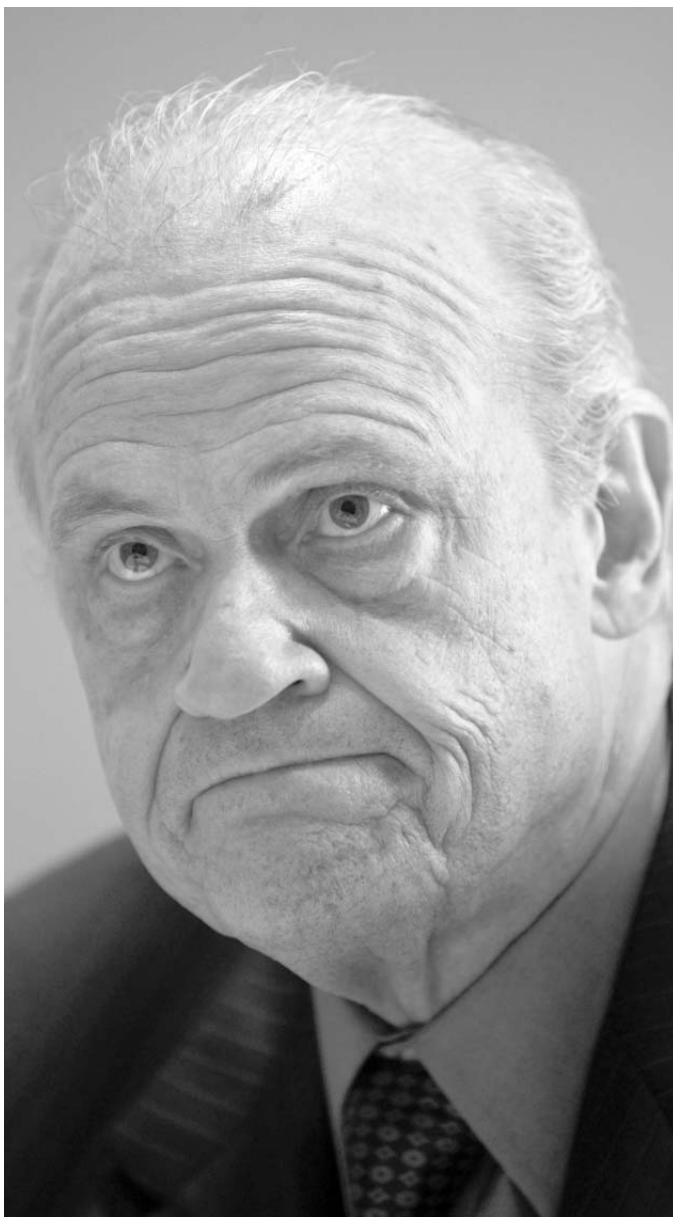
Clyburn, the third-ranking member of the House, occupied the building since making his first run for the House in 1992.

He moved out this summer because he said the space was too cramped and the air conditioning didn't work well.

"I wish him the best," Clyburn said of Thompson. But "he should know, I packed up all the good luck and brought it with me to the new office."

Thompson's campaign in this early voting state will be able to keep a close watch over Republican rival John McCain, who has his headquarters across the street about a block away.

Before Clyburn, McCain strategist Richard Quinn used to operate his copy



John Russell / The Associated Press

Republican presidential hopeful, Fred D. Thompson, holds a meeting with the media in Franklin, Tenn.

and consulting business out of the space.

"It's gone full circle, from Republican to Democrat to Republican," Clyburn spokeswoman Hope Derrick said.

While Thompson is a front-runner in this early primary state, he is late setting up staff, on-the-ground organization and office space.

His first trip as a candidate came just two weeks ago, a few days after

he formally put longtime aide Dean Rice in charge of his campaign and hired a South Carolina consultant and a manager.

Rice said the campaign will add three field coordinators next week.

On Tuesday, Thompson's campaign issued a news release noting the endorsement of a dozen state legislators, many of whom already have publicly supported Thompson.



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Columbia Museum of Art commissioned Apollo's Cascade, a 25 ft. sculpture fountain, on Boyd Plaza.

FISH ● Continued from A1

Zach Baker, president of the Interfraternity Council, brought the issue up at the weekly IFC meeting on Wednesday. He reminded the unidentified pranksters that they will not be allowed to keep fish in the Thomas Cooper pond and told them to stop feeding the fish.

It is not known for certain how long the goldfish will be able to survive in the pond or how long they have already lived there but a Daily Gamecock litmus test of the fountain (a test of how acidic the water is) shows the pond is perfectly capable of supporting the goldfish.

The only question marks now are: What can the fish eat to survive? Will the pond's filtration system suck up and kill the fish? And do they have any natural predators that can harm them?

Green algae that fills the library pond is considered

some of the best food for goldfish to graze on. Theoretically, the fish should thrive while living in the Thomas Cooper pond.

As far as the second concern, will the filtration system kill the goldfish, students have reported seeing the fish swimming in the pond for the last couple of days. So far, these little fish have managed to avoid the perils of the water filtration system.

Finally, the goldfishes' only natural predators are fish-eating birds, and as long as the goldfish have a place to hide, under a plant or behind a rock, they should be safe from an aerial assault.

Barring removal by the school, it is not impossible that these goldfish will not only survive, but could possibly thrive.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

BLOGS ● Continued from A1

I'm having. There are so many great things about being a Gamecock, and I just want to let everyone know about it."

Carandang, along with fellow USC blogger third-year pharmacy major Cory Jenks both enjoy documenting their experiences at USC.

"Sometimes I feel like I get more out of my blogs than a prospective student because I am forced to chronicle my time here, and I get to go back over and read over my blogs and see all the cool stuff I have done," Jenks said.

Students aren't the only ones blogging.

Journalism professor Doug Fisher's blog has a following of professionals from all over.

He started blogging in 2004 as a part of the Wireless Election Connection with Newsplex. Fisher's blog, Common Sense Journalism, averages 107 hits a day.

Fisher hopes to "add to the conversation, provide a place to provoke thought, point out problems," with his blog, he said.

Two years ago, journalism students blogged about their experiences in "A J-School Year," and students who've studied abroad and do internships also "blogabroad" and send dispatches about their experiences on the journalism site.

"That was an interesting experiment," Fisher said of the J-School Year blog. "We got some really good posts on there, explaining the angst of job searching and going through J-School."

Fisher cites flexibility as a major benefit of blogging.

"The blog gives newspapers and newsrooms much more flexibility," Fisher said.

Student Affairs chose blogging instead of another organization for its flexibility, too.

"Blogging is something that anyone can participate in, from anywhere," Gudridge said. "It can be done at anytime. You can blog from your dorm room, you can blog from the Horseshoe, you can blog from the Russell House. You can read it from all those places too."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

NEWSBRIEFS

Woman won't face charges for stabbing boyfriend to death

Spartanburg County deputies say they don't plan to file any charges against a woman who stabbed her boyfriend to death during a fight.

Authorities say 41-year-old Shirley Jeffries told investigators that her boyfriend headbutted her several times as they argued Wednesday night and refused to let her leave the couple's home.

Deputies say Jeffries told them she feared for her life and stabbed 44-year-old Samuel Norman several times in the neck.

Norman died a few hours later at the hospital.

Deputies said they decided not to charge Jeffries after

talking to prosecutors.

Firefighter wakes up to blaze at own fire station

BISHOPVILLE - Firefighter Brian Eargle is accustomed to waking up and having to fight fires.

But Tuesday night, Eargle said he was jerked from sleep by coughing and quickly ended up having to fight a blaze at his own fire station.

Eargle managed to escape the fire, call for help and drive two trucks away from the burning building. He then pulled a hose from a fire truck parked outside to fight the blaze for about 10 minutes until his fellow firefighters could arrive and get their equipment on.

The fire, which started in the lounge of the station, did

about \$30,000 in damage, Lee County Fire Chief Mike Bedenbaugh said.

But it could have been a lot worse. Bedenbaugh said he is glad Eargle wasn't hurt or killed and also that he managed to save the vehicles from the blaze.

"If this fire had happened at any of our other stations, then we would have lost vehicles and the entire building," Bedenbaugh said. "This is the only station where we have someone on duty 24 hours a day."

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the fire.

Funeral director won't face charges after shooting intruder

UNION - Authorities say a 37-year-old funeral

director in Union will not face charges for shooting an intruder.

Scott Lewis said he was embalming a body early Wednesday morning when someone broke into Lewis Funeral Home, threatened to kill him and demanded money.

Lewis said he told the man he had cash in his van and when the two went out to the vehicle, he pulled his gun out of a bag and shot the would-be robber.

Authorities said 26-year-old Tracey Bishop is at an Upstate hospital recovering from a gunshot to his left arm. Deputies said he will be charged with second-degree burglary and attempted armed robbery when he is released.

Doing it daily. www.dailygamecock.com





Alex Brandon / The Associated Press

Mychal Bell, one of the Jena Six, listens to speakers after leaving the LaSalle Parish Courthouse in Jena, La.

One of 'Jena 6' will face juvenile court

Judge orders 17-year-old Mychal Bell's release with \$45,000 bail

Doug Simpson
The Associated Press

JENA, La. - A black teenager whose prosecution in the beating of a white classmate prompted a massive civil rights protest here walked out of a courthouse Thursday after a judge ordered him freed.

Mychal Bell's release on \$45,000 bail came hours after a prosecutor confirmed he will no longer seek an adult trial for the 17-year-old. Bell, one of the teenagers known as the Jena Six, still faces trial as a juvenile in the December beating in this small central Louisiana town.

"We still have mountains to climb, but at least this is closer to an even playing field," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, who helped organize last week's protest.

"He goes home because a lot of people left their home and stood up for him," Sharpton said.

District Attorney Reed Walters' decision to abandon adult charges means that Bell, who had faced a maximum of 15 years in prison on his aggravated second-degree battery conviction last month, instead could be held only until he turns 21 if he is found guilty in juvenile court.

The conviction in adult court was thrown out this month by the state 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, which said Bell should not have been tried as an adult on that particular charge.

Walters had said he would appeal that decision. On Thursday, he said he still believes there was legal

merit to trying Bell as an adult but decided it was in the best interest of the victim, Justin Barker, and his family to let the juvenile court handle the case.

"They are on board with what I decided," Walters said at a news conference.

Walters said Bell faces juvenile court charges of aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy to commit that crime.

Bell is among six black Jena High School students arrested in December after a beating that left Barker unconscious and bloody, though the victim was able to attend a school function later the same day. Four of the defendants were 17 at the time, and legally adults under Louisiana law.

Those four and Bell, who was 16, all were initially charged with attempted murder. Walters has said he sought to have Bell tried as an adult because he already had a criminal record, and because he believed Bell instigated the attack.

The charges have been dropped to aggravated second-degree battery in four of the cases. One defendant has yet to be arraigned. The sixth defendant's case is sealed in juvenile court.

Critics accuse Walters, who is white, of prosecuting blacks more harshly than whites. They note that he filed no charges against three white teens suspended from the high school for allegedly hanging nooses in a tree on campus not long before fights between blacks and whites, including the attack on Barker.

An estimated 20,000 to 25,000 protesters marched in Jena last week in a scene that evoked the early years of the civil-rights movement.

Walters said the demonstration had no

JENA 6 • A4

Obama woos S.C. voters

Illinois senator's campaign relies on regional volunteers for success

Jim Davenport
The Associated Press

Democratic White House hopeful Barack Obama is paying more than 30 staffers to help organize supporters in counties across South Carolina.

The Illinois senator's campaign also has more than 7,000 volunteers and has organized its campaign in each of the state's 46 counties, spokesman Kevin Griffis said Wednesday.

The only other Democratic candidate likely to come close to that level of paid employees for rounding up county-level support is Hillary Rodham Clinton. But a spokesman for the New York senator's campaign wouldn't talk about staffing.

"We have the staff to engage a campaign across the state on every level and in every community to engage South Carolinians about why Hillary has the best experience to be president," Clinton spokesman Zac Wright said.

John Edwards' campaign said it also has organizations set up in

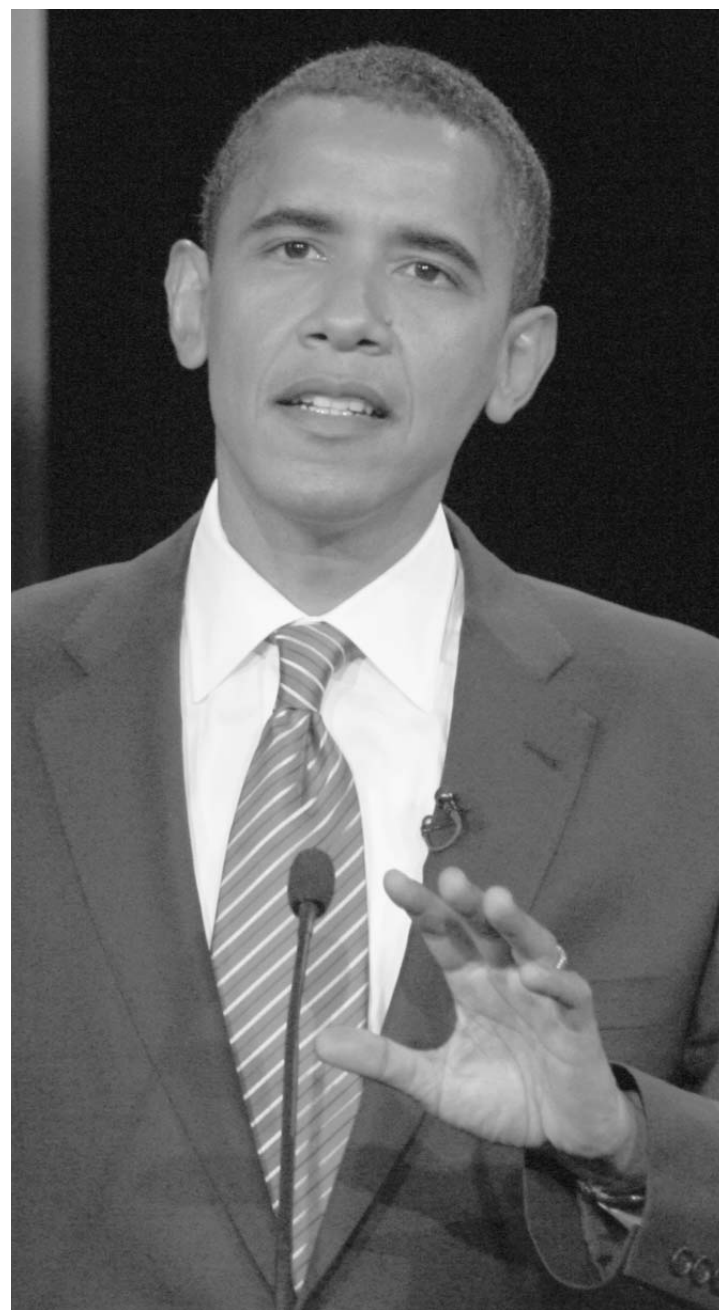
every county and is building a list of endorsements that is growing from the 2004 South Carolina primary, which the Seneca native and former North Carolina senator won.

"It's very different to expand on pre-existing grass-roots support than it is to start from the ground up so our organization and the methods we use to build even more support are going to look a little different than other candidates," Edwards spokeswoman Teresa Wells said.

Obama's campaign will be using a number of its volunteers this weekend as 1,000 of them from South Carolina and neighboring states plan to go door-to-door in this early voting state, Griffis said.

Edwards' campaign knocked that effort, with Wells forwarding an e-mail from an Obama supporter saying 100 people from the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states would meet up and head to South Carolina.

With county organizations in place, "we don't have people take the train in from New York to talk to voters here," Wells said.



Jim Cole / The Associated Press

Presidential hopeful Senator Barack Obama answers a question during a debate at Dartmouth College on Wed.

DUBAI • Continued from A2

from a Charleston developer called CaroLinks.

Kara Borie, a spokeswoman for the state Commerce Department, said the agency has had talks with Jafza, but referred all comments about any potential investment to the company.

An official from Jafza International confirmed late Wednesday the company is in the process of purchasing land but declined to comment further and would not give his name.

Orangeburg County economic development chief Gregg Robinson said he could not comment on any specific company that might be considering investing in the county.

Alan Capper, a spokesman for CaroLinks, said the company could not comment on any land sales in Orangeburg County.

Jafza International is a sister company of DP World, which initially won federal approval to run six major U.S. ports before

congressional objections to a Middle Eastern company running the ports caused the deal to fall through.

There should be no problems with Jafza's planned development outside Orangeburg, Clyburn said.

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JENA 6 • Continued from A3

influence on the decision he announced Thursday, and ended his news conference by saying that only God kept the protest peaceful.

“The only way—let me stress that—the only way that I believe that me or this community has been able to endure the trauma that has been thrust upon us is through the prayers of the Christian people who have sent them up in this community,” Walters said.

“I firmly believe and am confident of the fact that had it not been for the direct intervention of the Lord Jesus Christ last Thursday, a disaster would have happened. You can quote me on that.”

When the Rev. Donald Sibley, a black Jena pastor, called it a “shame” that Walters credited divine intervention for the protesters acting responsibly, the prosecutor said: “What I’m saying is, the Lord Jesus Christ put his influence on those people, and they responded accordingly.”

After the news conference, Sibley told CNN that Walters had insulted the protesters by making a false separation between “his Christ and our Christ.”

“I can’t diminish Christ at all. But for him to use it in the sense that because his Christ, his Jesus, because he prayed, because of his police, that everything was peaceful and was decent and in order—that’s not the truth,” Sibley said.

Walters has said repeatedly that Barker’s suffering has been lost in the furor that erupted over the case, and that what happened to the teen was much more severe than a schoolyard fight.

Walters also has defended his decision not to seek charges in the hanging of the nooses, which he said was “abhorrent and stupid” but not a crime.

Healthcare bill passes

Children’s insurance legislation sets up possible presidential veto

Kevin Freking
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Congress approved legislation Thursday that would potentially add 4 million children to a popular health care program, setting up a veto fight that President Bush probably will win but handing Democrats a campaign issue for next year’s elections.

Eighteen Republicans in the Senate lined up with Democrats in voting 67-29 to increase spending on the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, from about \$5 billion to \$12 billion annually for the next five years.

The vote was enough to override a promised Bush veto. But supporters in the House, which passed the bill Tuesday, are about two dozen votes shy of an override. Both chambers would have to muster two-thirds majorities to win a veto showdown.

Overall, spending for SCHIP would increase to \$60 billion over five years in the unlikely prospect the bill becomes law—double what President Bush recommended.

Analysts projected the legislation would allow about 4 million of the estimated 9 million uninsured children in the United States to gain coverage.

Bush and most GOP lawmakers say the spending increase is too large and would expand the program beyond its original intent. That intent was to help families with incomes too large to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance.

In a statement after the

Senate vote, the White House said Bush “will veto this bill because it directs scarce funding to higher incomes at the expense of poor families.”

Opponents of the measure said they support SCHIP, which was enacted a decade ago, and want to renew it before it is set to expire on Saturday. However, they said they could not go along with such a large spending increase.

Republicans braced for criticism that they were being insensitive to low-income children who are uninsured through no fault of their own. They said the legislation was an effort to score political points and another step toward universal health care paid for by the government.

“Democrats are counting down the hours so they can tee up the election ads saying Republicans don’t like kids,” said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. “Meanwhile, they’re using SCHIP as a Trojan horse to sneak government-run health care into the States.”

Democrats said there was strong public support for expanding the children’s health care program. They portrayed the president as isolated in his view that the legislation would be a mistake.

“With each passing day, he reveals ever more clearly that the values of his administration are out of touch with those of average Americans,” said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

Some Republicans joined in that criticism.

“I just don’t understand his decision, and I think it

would be a terrible mistake,” said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said complaints about the bill bordered on hysteria, particularly complaints that the bill would expand government-subsidized coverage to families of four with incomes of up to \$83,000.

“This is not a government takeover of health care. This is not socialized or nationalized medicine or anything like that,” Grassley said. “This is not bringing the Canadian health care system to America.”

The additional spending would be paid for through a 61-cent increase in the federal excise tax on a pack of cigarettes.

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., said the tax could end up lowering future health care costs if it reduces smoking rates.

“Discourage smoking and you connect the habit with all the public health care costs that it imposes,” he said.

But Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., said the tax increase could lead to a drop in revenue to states that also rely on tobacco taxes.

Those states would be compelled to increase tobacco taxes also to avert revenue shortfalls. The resulting price increase would force some smokers to the black market, he said.

After the vote, supporters of the bill said they believed it would be in the president’s best interest politically to sign the bill.

“The polls on this are overwhelming,” said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Opponents argued during the debate that expanding the program too much would lead to many families dropping private coverage.

Mexican military opened to women

Females can rise in rank, train at elite schools, become pilots, engineers

E. Eduardo Castillo
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico’s military is tapping a population it all but overlooked for decades as it struggles to attract new recruits: women. For the first time, Mexico is allowing women to train in elite military schools to become engineers, pilots and other careers that can rise to the rank of general.

They still aren’t allowed in combat roles, but these changes—ordered by President Felipe Calderon shortly after he took office in December—are profound for Mexico. It’s the first expansion of military opportunities for women in 31 years.

One of the first such recruits is Patricia Vela, 18. She always wanted to join the military, although not as a nurse. Now she’s studying administration, a military career previously closed to women.

Up before dawn at boot camp this month, she joined male cadets in a long day of marching, obstacle courses and basic weaponry training in combat fatigues at a military camp in the central Mexican highlands.

While she won’t be allowed to study weaponry as a career or take part in combat, like all female cadets—even those who came before her—she must learn to arm, fire and dismantle a gun.

Just a few days into boot camp, she said the reception from her male counterparts had been positive.

“There were so many people who couldn’t get

in, and here I am, one of the first,” said Vela, who competed against 13,500 male applicants for 2,007 slots. “It’s impressive, and gives me strength from I don’t know where.”

Sprinkled through the lines of rifle-toting cadets are at least 215 women this year. While the initial boot camp is and always has been the same for both men and women from all schools, some of the women entering the previously closed military careers will face grueling physical and educational tests in the months ahead.

And they will be held up to the same standard as men in all cases, said Agustin Radilla, who oversees military education. He said that, so far, the male cadets have welcomed the women into the new schools, and he credits the changes for a “healthy competition” between the sexes.

Women first joined Mexico’s armed forces in 1938 as nurses. By 1973, they could become military doctors, and three years later, dentists. Today, women have access to 17 of the military’s 39 career schools. And with access has come increased interest: 3,326 women applied for military schooling in 2007-2008, up 61 percent from the year before.

Currently, women make up only 6,309 of the 191,000 members of Mexico’s military. Radilla predicts that could rise to 8,920 by 2012—a modest increase, but a sign of the future: “We believe this will change public opinion by showing that, even in the army, women can achieve the same as men.”

Some observers say the change is coming very slowly, and reluctantly.

“The reason they made this change, I believe, is that it has become increasingly difficult to keep men in the military,” said Roderic Ai Camp, a Mexico expert at Claremont-McKenna College in California. “By allowing women to fill more positions, and hopefully to become longtime careerists, they can increase the percentage of men in combat operations.”

Increasing the number of soldiers on the ground is key to Calderon’s nationwide crackdown on the drug trade, a violent battle that is taxing Mexico’s military resources.

Other Latin American countries—such as Bolivia, Chile and Guatemala—already allow women to participate in combat, and Radilla said Mexico was studying the possibility.

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IN OUR OPINION

Accident or no, Nazi symbol chagrins Navy

The U.S. Navy recently announced plans to alter its barracks complex at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado near San Diego. Revamping a 40-year-old complex is usually not a big news story, but the Coronado barracks consist of four L-shaped buildings arranged in such a way that, when viewed from the air, they look like a swastika.

The Navy first noticed the shape during construction in 1967, but has done nothing to change it until now, MSNBC reports.

How is it that our sailors have been living in a giant Nazi insignia for the past 40 years?

An architectural oversight is forgivable, but how is it that our sailors have been living in a giant Nazi insignia for the past 40 years and no one has bothered to fix it until now?

The Navy has budgeted \$600,000 to fix the unfortunate aerial symbolism at the Coronado barracks, but only pressure from U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, Missouri talk radio host Dave vonKleist and the Anti-Defamation League convinced the Navy to do anything about it.

None of the activists believe the barracks were meant to resemble a swastika, so the architectural snafu elicits more feelings of puzzlement than outrage.

Even so, building a complex that looks like a swastika, even by accident, and letting it sit for decades in the hopes that no one would notice doesn't seem like a particularly bright thing to do.

It's a symbol that we'd rather not see in government-sponsored architecture, accidental or not.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

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A LITTLE TAX BREAK

Fanatics cause own trials, tribulations

Ignoring extremists only allows them to spread messages of intolerance



JOSH RABON
Third-year finance student

The horse may be dead, but he can still be beaten.

Somewhere, somebody must have declared September controversial speech month. Locally, we had some interesting guests around the library and now Columbia University has (somewhat) welcomed Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

And then the battle began. The legitimacy of these groups was debated in this paper as well as others.

The Wall Street Journal ran an editorial questioning the interests of the academic world, where Ahmadinejad was welcomed into facilities of higher education while at the same time faculty and students at Stanford are petitioning to keep Donald Rumsfeld from joining the school as a Hoover Fellow.

If it was up to me, we'd put these "preachers" on television every night and video clips of Ahmadinejad would be a top hit on Youtube. Why would we want to stifle them?

One main objection to USC "allowing" these visitors was that it gave them some legitimacy

and let them spread their message. Seriously? Legitimacy? I just have a hard time believing anyone with the sense to pass English 101 and calculus would walk by someone hollering "To hell with the gays," and say to themselves, "You know, I never thought about it that way. What a fabulous idea."

I'll go so far as to make up some statistics: for every one person that was converted to their cause, about 20 people were disgusted and instead of going about their lives as usual, actually discussed the issue with someone they know.

I know this is true of myself—in these days of no Friday classes, grubbin' on chicken finger Wednesdays and chillaxing on Greene Street, it's easy to become complacent. All right, so maybe life isn't that carefree, but the point is, sometimes it takes a kick in the pants or racial slur to the ear to get us moving.

Throughout most of my life, I have been unassaulted by the propaganda dribble of hate groups. But that

helps them. Hate groups don't want people like you and me, typical people, thinking about them, because, should we muster the energy, we will speak out against them. Out of sight and out of mind.

It follows that since they are no longer out of sight, hopefully they will no longer be out of mind and we can openly address some of the subversive prejudices still present in our culture.

The fact is USC can't shelter us from deplorable viewpoints any more than the border can keep Ahmadinejad's words at bay.

But every time he opens his mouth, his opposition grows larger.

It's like a smear campaign that runs itself, only you couldn't make some of this stuff up. Denying that the holocaust happened? Can you imagine if, say, Barack Obama said something like that?

And it works. Before this week, when was the last time you said the name "Ahmadinejad?" I have trouble pronouncing it now, but have probably tried more times in the past days than the whole previous year. People are stirred up.

I say let these fanatics stir the pot. They might be surprised by what they cook up.

IN YOUR OPINION

Immigration column needed less sarcasm

The author who wrote the article "Unity more important than borders" in today's viewpoints section made The Gamecock look unprofessional. I know he was trying to use sarcasm, but that's all the article is. There is little to no content, so it sounds uninformed. The author generalizes and makes random references. I enjoy reading a professional periodical that deals with issues close to me, and Viewpoints is my favorite section of the Gamecock.

In the future, please filter the articles published

so I don't have to start reading the State or USA Today.

David Simon
First-year international studies student

Gideons continue evangelistic 'assault'

After last week's barrage of hateful preaching, I came to campus today glad to be free of that drama, only to be assaulted by the Gideons handing out Bibles every three feet.

Not a corner was unoccupied by these men, and it's already crowded

enough between classes on the sidewalks.

Can we not just come to college anymore and go to classes without having people preach at us constantly anymore? They should realize coming onto our campus that many students have a bad flavor in our mouths from other extremist groups from prior weeks.

Just let us come to class without having to say, "No thanks. No thanks. NO THANKS!" every couple of feet.

April Coker
Fourth-year public relations student

Bradley pays price for loss of control on playing field

Exciteable outfielder acts out, tears knee ligament in argument with umpire

San Diego Padres outfielder Milton Bradley once again shocked, surprised and entertained me last Sunday.

Bradley completely lost control of himself after umpire Mike Winters apparently uttered profane words in his direction and had to be restrained by Padres manager Bud Black.

Bradley became so irate that he had to be restrained by Black, tearing his ACL in the process.

While Winters' words may have been totally uncalled for, as Black attested they were, such words shouldn't have provoked Bradley to become as enraged as he did.

Bradley is notorious for letting his temper get the best of him, drawing suspensions in the past for numerous acts of rage, dwarfing his formidable skills on the field when he's not in trouble.

Watching the replays of the incident, I couldn't help but feel that despite his somewhat-justified rage, Bradley got what he deserved when he went down with a torn knee ligament.

Bradley repeatedly ripped Black's arms off of him, making an extraordinary effort to shake off his manager, all the while shouting like a bloodthirsty savage.

Bradley went so far as to say "And now, because of [Winters], my knee is hurt."

Bradley shouldn't blame anyone but himself for his situation now, as he is the only one that can control his temper, and he let it get out of control.

The question here is why would Bradley be so reckless and so childish as to fend off his own manager to go after another person over words?

The situation in many ways mimicked the World Cup fiasco involving Zinedine Zidane. Zidane headbutted an Italian defender Marco Materazzi and was ejected from the game after he had heard Materazzi mutter something in his ear.

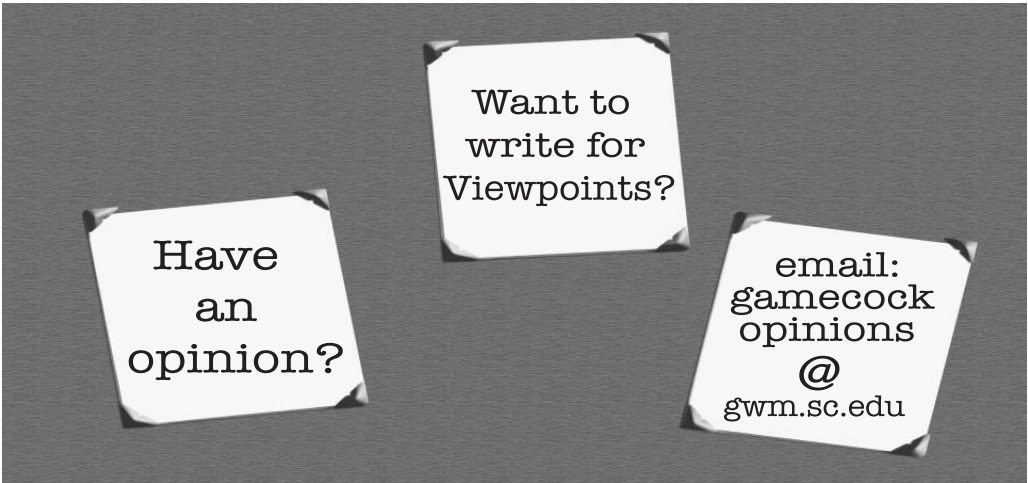
I feel no sympathy for Bradley or his situation, as this was all brought onto him by himself, and his childish anger problem.

The Padres now are without one of their hottest hitters and most talented players, and have begun to freefall in the National League West division race, as well as the wild card, allowing the Colorado Rockies and Philadelphia Phillies to climb back into the thick of things.

Not only did Bradley hurt himself, but also he crippled his already floundering team, illustrating perfectly why losing your temper can do nothing but hurt you.



MIKE WUNDERLICH
First-year journalism student



Lips release first live concert DVD

Film highlights unique, powerful performance

"The Flaming Lips"
★★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Colin Jones
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Recognized as one of the strangest and most unique bands in popular music, The Flaming Lips returns with its parade of weirdness in the band's first live concert DVD, "U.F.O.s At The Zoo."

While the film is not the first to document The Flaming Lips after director and band friend Bradley Beesley's wholly encompassing and descriptive film, "The Fearless Freaks," it is the first to capture the direct essence of a Lips show.

"U.F.O.s At The Zoo," directed by Beesley as well, begins as a tribute in a way to the insanity of the band's cult following of fans. A camera shot runs through the pre-show crowd as a countdown to some sort of launch begins.

The Lips makes a homecoming of sorts with the show by playing on September 15, 2006 in their hometown of Okalahoma City at the Zoo Amphitheater.

The band makes their unusual entrance through a rigged spaceship that lands on the stage. Guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Steven Drozd, Bassist Michael Ivins and Drummer Kliph Scurlock drop out of the bottom of the prop while head Lip Wayne Coyne emerges from the top.



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

In usual strange fashion Coyne enters in a giant plastic bubble that he uses to walk on top of the crowd. This type of entrance has become commonplace at the band's shows in the past few years.

Following Coyne's crowd journey, hundreds of giant balloons and confetti exploded onto the audience in a mass wave of color and latex.

The band then breaks into a perfectly performed rendition of "Race For The Prize" off their masterpiece 1999 album, "The Soft Bulletin." Throughout the film interviews and backstage footage are spliced in with rest of the concert.

The viewer gets a behind the scenes look at how the concert was set up and how the stage dancers were picked. The Lips brought fans up onto the stage and dressed them like Santa Claus before the show.

Since the show was performed next to the Oklahoma City Zoo, footage of the animals hearing the concert is put into the mix as well. Coyne also jokes on stage that everyone was going to be able to free the animals at their show.

The other side of the fans is explored as well with a tailgate walkthrough from the filmmakers. The majority of the fans are dressed in unusual costumes and the viewer even gets to hear the opinion of these fans that praise the Lips to the highest degree.

Coyne and the Lips make good on delivering



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

a class act performance that becomes more like an experience because of the massive art quality of the band. Coyne shoots confetti at the crowd, pours fake blood on his head and whirls around stage like a wild animal in his prime.

The set list was full of The Flaming Lips classic songs including "Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots" with Coyne displaying a nun puppet, "The W.A.N.D.," "A Spoonful Weighs a Ton," "She Don't Use Jelly" and

many more.

The DVD also feature extras that the viewer can access through their computer. The extras include a MP3 format of the concert, ring tone access and numerous pictures.

With "U.F.O.s At The Zoo," The Flaming Lips displays the power to move an audience and to be expertise showmen in their craft.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu



Special to / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fest to have nine bands

Calling all wenches, marauders to fourth annual Pirates Festival

Ellen Meder
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

After Carolina wins Saturday's football game, what better way is there to celebrate than to party like a cock star? To party like a pirate, of course! On Saturday, Columbia's New Brookland Tavern will host the fourth annual Pirate Fest.

The concept of the show was conceived in 2004 when Sean Rayford, a photographer for The State and the Columbia City Paper, found himself distraught after marauders pilfered his laptop. Friends decided to throw a benefit concert to scrape together funds for a replacement computer, and a festival was born.

This year's Pirate Fest lineup features nine bands, seven of which are Columbia based groups, most of which are unsigned, that will provide a cross section of less-explored local music.

The metal/hard core bands, Then Came The Dawn and The Letter Red, might turn off some members of your crew, as

the genre is not typically acquired upon first viewing. The duo The Society of Daggers is a decent bet with their self-described sound of "purist, innovative hip hop... with a point." Listeners with slightly less eclectic musical inclinations will enjoy up beat MiKenPike, or the experimental instrumental rock band Ours To Alibi. Finally, the favorite local purveyors of all things rock, punk, indie and ska: The Machine Is Me, Jacob & I, Foxes That Fight and, for all intents and purposes, the captain of the ship, Maladroit.

For those unaware, ska is a genre influenced by reggae with a punk/swing mixed sound. With little effort one would find that Maladroit, formerly the Maladroit Mafia, is often considered the local ska authority. That is until this Saturday—Pirate Fest 4 marks the end of the three-year old, five-piece, progressive ska band.

The band began as random marching band members at White Knoll High School in 2005, when a win at the school talent show lead to a win at New Brookland

Tavern's Battle of the Bands. Within months of being thrown together by guitarist Jeffery McMicken, now a second-year English student at University of South Carolina and drummer Jason Rikard, third-year Computer Science student, Maladroit played at the 2005 Warped Tour in Charlotte, NC.

The decision for the band to go separate ways came when several members' lives took new directions and priorities. The only thing the band—voiced through McMicken—had to say to console their fans was "thank you for all of the amazing support. This has been an unforgettable experience." Maladroit is indeed recording a final EP, "Burning Free" which will be made available for free download online, as a final thank you.

Sail across the Congaree River to The New Brookland Tavern at 122 State St. in West Columbia for Pirate Fest 4 on Saturday. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, day of show. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. If you dare, show up in pirate regalia.

Celebrities inspire more gossip from nose jobs to alcohol abuse

DUIs emerge as hottest new trend for Hollywood actors both young, old

You've seen it happen to Lindsay. You've seen it happen to Paris, to Nicole, to Britney. As if it were as fashionable as large sunglasses and dresses with leggings, Celebrity DUI charges seem to be associating themselves with our iconic personas, but they never seem to remain silent.

If it wasn't enough that the National Enquirer Queens weren't ruling the celebrity justice ring, Kiefer Sutherland (of Fox's hit show "24") and Vivica A. Fox (from ABC's "Ugly Betty") have recently snuck their names into the headlines with a complimentary mug shot.

While Sutherland has had a history of problems related to alcohol, one would think that he and Vivica would have a bit more common sense and control at such a later age than the former tabloid prima donnas.

Nonetheless, they are now facing the same courthouses, press and lawyers for their very own DUI charges.

Celebrities need to realize that just because their names are in lights doesn't give them immunity when dealing with the law.

They still get as drunk, as stupid and as unable to drive as anyone else who picks up the keys after visiting the bar.

"The Hills" are alive with sound of always present Conrad, Montag drama



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Don't watch "The Hills?" Me either, but the stars of the MTV reality show sure do fuel some drama. According to TMZ.com Lauren Conrad—LC to her fans—still hates Heidi Montag. On an even funnier note, LC almost didn't return for a third season. Seriously folks, why wouldn't she? The girl makes \$10,000-\$25,000 per episode, states thesuperficial.com. So...Conrad gets that much money to sit around and drink coffee and talk on the phone. For all you Heidi Montag fans, no, they aren't real. Well, they used to be, but now they aren't. Montag admitted to Us Magazine that she has had a breast augmentation and a nose job. Not only is Montag sporting a new body, she is also trying to start a singing career. Great, does the world really need any more blonde pop singers? She was spotted lip-synching, I mean singing, her new single at LAX, a nightclub in Vegas. Judge for yourself, you can watch the



MARY PINA
Third-year print journalism student

disaster of a performance on tmz.com.

Britney Spears faces more drug allegations, custody battle over two children

"Drug abuse and custody battles remain two more things to add to Britney's growing list of accomplishments"

Ex-bodyguard Tony Barretto is speaking out about Britney's drug problem, saying that he witnessed Britney abusing drugs twice when she was in his presence. Barretto felt it was time for him to finally come clean about what he experienced. When asked if Barretto ever saw drugs on or near Britney, he claimed that he saw some in a hotel room, which Britney was staying in at the time. Stating that he wanted to get Britney some help, Barretto claimed that Britney never listened to anybody and that talking about her personal life was "almost forbidden."

It was only recently that an L.A. judge ordered Britney to be randomly tested for drugs twice weekly, also ordering her to hire a parenting coach to ensure her kids don't follow in the unfortunate footsteps of their mother. As if dealing with drug allegations isn't bad enough, Britney is also dealing with the custody battle of her two children, Sean Preston and Jayden James. Her lack of respect for herself and others, her crazy antics and her bizarre behavior are three sure-fire ways of keeping the paparazzi right there to capture her every mood and mistake.



SUNNA RAJA
First-year Business student

PIC OF THE DAY



Lizzy Sheppard / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Two students leave their mark on a mural at the Keen Stand for Sustainability event Thursday evening at the Learning Center in the West Quad learning community.

Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock

GEORGIA

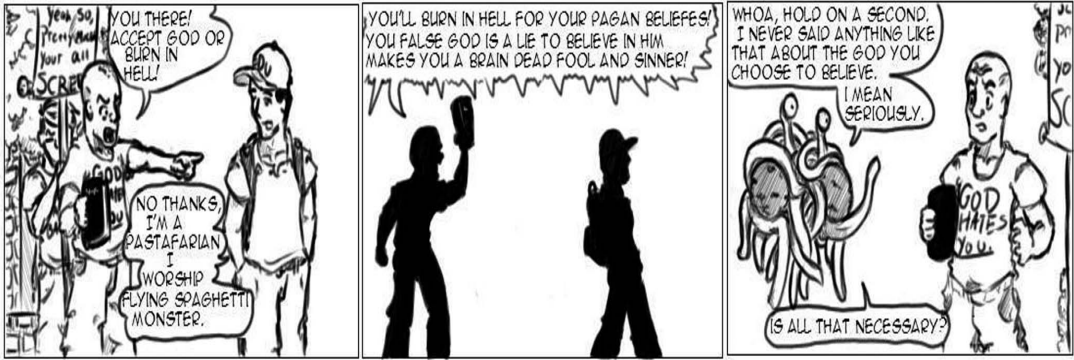
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SC STATE

MISSISSIPPI STATE

WE SURE HAVE SOME ORIGINAL OPPONENTS.

Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



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PRIDE is RESPONSIBILITY

ALPHA

ALPHA

ALPHA

Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

9/28/07

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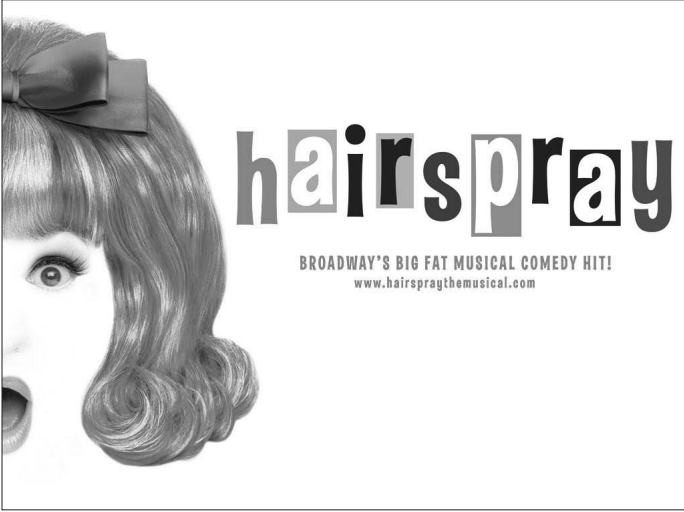
How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 9/27/07

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the scene at USC

Hairspray



TODAY

HOMECOMING STEP SHOW :
6 p.m., Free, Williams-Brice Stadium, Shuttle from Russell House 5 p.m.

DENISON WITMER, MARLA HANSEN, AUSTIN CRANE, MIKE MEWBORNE :
7 p.m., \$8

WUSC ALUMNI WEEKEND-DANCE PARTY :
11 p.m., free Over 21/\$5 under 21, The New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

COLUMBIA ALTERNACIRQUE:
9 p.m., Free, 21 and over, The Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

LEFTY AT THE WASHOUT, DAVE BRITT BAND, WILD

SWEET ORANGE :

9 p.m., Free, Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

USC DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS "DIVINE COMEDY" :
7:30 p.m., \$10, Koger Center, 1051 Greene St., tickets at Carolina Coliseum

THEATRE SOUTH CAROLINA PRESENTS "NOISES OFF" :
8 p.m., Sept. 28-Oct. 7, \$10 Students, \$14 faculty/staff, \$16 public, Drayton Hall

"HAIRSPRAY" :
10:30 p.m., \$5.50

"THE TEN" :
6 p.m., 8 p.m., \$5.50, The Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

9/28/07

Brought to you by:



ACROSS

- 1 Memphis record label
- 5 Novelist Hunter
- 9 Deduce
- 14 Den
- 15 Roman fiddler
- 16 Singer Apple
- 17 "M*A*S*H" star
- 18 Enthusiasm
- 19 Move stealthily
- 20 Type of announcer
- 23 "Dies _"
- 24 Shady trees
- 25 Topped on eBay
- 27 Future ovum
- 30 Bill or Anne
- 32 Winglike parts
- 33 Vicious usurers
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- 38 Signe of

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DOWN

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- 2 Statuesque
- 3 Turturo of
- "The Sopranos"
- 4 Superman power
- 5 Pepsin and rennin
- 6 Boardroom execs
- 7 Asian sea
- 8 Vincent Lopez theme
- 9 Contingencies
- 10 Premier
- Khrushchev
- 11 Kind of drive
- 12 Zhou _
- 13 Did a fall job
- 21 3-letter lunch
- 22 Wars of the
- Roses side
- 26 Stellar bear
- 27 Hawaiian island
- 28 "The Good Earth" heroine
- 29 Kind of basis
- 30 Mediterranean island nation

Solutions from 9/27/07

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- 31 Strongly advise
- 34 Injure
- 36 One way to store data
- 37 Tournament passes
- 39 Quatro y quatro
- 42 Pickle holder
- 45 Horse feed
- 46 River of Victoria Falls
- 49 More pretentious
- 51 Manner
- 52 Curtain
- 53 Add luster to
- 54 Stage frontage
- 57 Volcano near Manila
- 58 External: pref.
- 59 Actor Curtis
- 60 Como _ Usted?
- 61 Hammer part
- 63 Small child

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Searching for the missing piece

Veteran Sapp, rookie Ingram vie for role of middle linebacker in absence of All-American Jasper Brinkley

Michael Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

When senior middle linebacker Jasper Brinkley went down injured last week against LSU all of Gamecock nation thought one thing

simultaneously, "Oh no." Brinkley was the heart and soul of a defense that had beaten Georgia and kept Carolina in control of its other games.

The next thing that raced through the minds Carolina fans everywhere was, "Now who?" Brinkley was a preseason candidate for most every award that could possibly be given to a linebacker, including but not limited to the Dick Butkus award, given to the best linebacker in the nation, the Walter Camp award, the Nagurski Trophy, preseason All-SEC and preseason All-American.

A talent like that only comes through a program once in a while. However, out of the ashes stepped junior linebacker Marvin Sapp and true freshman linebacker Melvin Ingram, two players who can help USC finish a season that began with high expectations.

Both realize the man that they are trying to fill in for is nearly larger than life.

"Jasper is a great person as well as a great linebacker," Sapp

said. "He meant leadership and intensity and I just pray to God everyday that he gets well."

Ingram sees a more personal side of the relationship that is now partially his responsibility to step into.

"He meant a whole lot to this defense," Ingram said. "He's like a father to a family."

Sapp, a two-year letterman from near Jacksonville, Fla., has seen significant playing time both of his two years at Carolina and plans to use his experience as the starting middle linebacker on a defense that is second in the SEC.

"I've been playing middle and sam (strong side linebacker) during the season," Sapp said. "Thank God that I played middle before and some last year. As far as adjustment, it's just me stepping up and filling my role and helping my team out."

Sapp was second on the team in tackles last season, second only to the man that he is now trying to replace. Sapp also won the Outstanding Linebacker and Joe Morrison Defensive Player of the Spring during spring practice this season.

Sapp was ready to prove that when this season came around and he has done just that. Sapp has seen a lot of the field in his first four games this season and is ninth on the team in tackles, first out of any players that do not start or have not started at their respective positions.

He remembers what it was like to be a freshman on the

team and to have guys step up and help teach him where he needed to be and what he needed to be doing. With the recent developments he is trying to play that same part for Ingram.

"(Melvin and I) are close because we play the same position," Sapp said. "I remember when I was a freshman I got a lot of help from (former USC linebackers) Lance Laury and Ricardo Hurley and so I'm just trying to do the same, trying to help him out."

Ingram responds that even with a little extra help from Sapp this unfortunate situation has created a friendly rivalry between the two players.

"We're friends and we just compete," Ingram said. "The one that wins, wins and the one that doesn't win is just going to cheer on and congratulate the one that does win."

Although he is receiving help from Sapp something still seems out of place about Ingram.

A year ago today the true freshman was two days away from his senior homecoming game at Richmond County High School against the Pinecrest High Patriots, a far cry from the nationally televised homecoming game he will play tomorrow for the South Carolina Gamecocks against the Mississippi State Bulldogs.

As alumni and current students stream into the

JASPER • B2

JASPER • Continued from B1

stadium to celebrate the memories they hold of USC and to welcome in the new king and queen, Ingram will be preparing for what could be the biggest game of his life so far. The four-star recruit came in with high expectations; however making the jump from high school football to competing for a starting job on an SEC defense is still not common. “I just worked hard and worked hard and worked hard,” Ingram said. “I ran and lifted weights and told myself that I had to get better because it isn’t high school anymore.” Apparently something that he did worked because coaches have seen enough out of

Ingram to place him as their number two man at middle linebacker all season long. Unlike many other positions where the second string man will not see a lot of playing time, Ingram has seen the field in all four games this season. “It just means that anything can happen,” Ingram said. “So just work hard and whatever happens, when it comes, happens.” Ingram is often times the most inexperienced player on the field when he is in the game, surrounded by other athletes who have been playing Division I college football for years. That, combined with the difference in complexity of an SEC defense versus any defense in high school, requires Ingram to stay humble and do as he is told.

“I know that they’ve (the older players) been here a long time,” Ingram said. “If I mess up, they’re going to correct me. The coaches have just told me to play hard and to play fast. They just want me to play middle linebacker and conduct the defense. To be the coach on the field.” Sapp and Ingram will certainly have to play hard and fast in order to fill the huge shoes that Jasper Brinkley has left behind. This weekend will be a test that will gauge what the two will be able to show for the rest of the season. Mississippi State is a strong team that is ready to run the ball right at the weak spot of Carolina’s defense, the middle. “We have to step up,” Sapp said. “We had injuries and have injuries on our team

besides Jasper Brinkley a lot of people on our team have done a great job of stepping up and fulfilling the role that others left behind. We don’t have to compensate too much for any losses we’ve had.” Sapp and Ingram have spent all week preparing hard for the extra burden that will be on them come Saturday. The two plan on turning the gasps of horror at seeing Brinkley writhing on the field after a play to gasps of surprise as the two step into Brinkley’s place and Carolina’s defense does not miss a step.

Comments on this story? E-mail gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu



This week’s preview: South Carolina vs. Mississippi State



Changes abound for offensive unit

Defense keys on stopping Dixon

Three new faces earn first start of their careers, Smelley earns second start as Spurrier shakes up depth chart for homecoming game

Pass stopping takes backseat to powerful Mississippi State running attack as USC looks to fill voids left by recent injuries

Kevin Walker
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Ty Zeigler
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With all of the changes that Carolina coach Steve Spurrier has made to the offense in preparation for the homecoming game with Mississippi State, one key player has held onto his starting role. Junior Kenny McKinley will assume his usual position Saturday as the top option at wide receiver, and will look to set the pace against what Spurrier called an “excellent” Bulldog defense. “The Mississippi State guys play fast,” Spurrier said. “It could come down to a conditioning game on Saturday.” The junior wide-out will have to pick up the slack that could be attributed to the lack of experience from new offensive starters Seaver Brown at guard, Dion Lecorn at wide receiver, and Chris Smelley at quarterback. The Gamecocks’ leading pass catcher is capable of doing just that, as he sits atop all team receiving categories with 23 receptions, 207 yards and three touchdowns. McKinley knows that success at his position relies not only on steady quarterback play, but also on his ability to be in the right place at the right time. “[The quarterback] has to put the ball in a certain spot, but we have to get there as receivers,” McKinley said. “Smelley can throw the ball well, so we’re ready to go out there and pass the ball.”

In last year’s matchup with Mississippi State, both McKinley and Smelley saw playing time. During the second quarter, the two hooked up for a 42-yard pass that led to a Carolina field goal. Smelley, a redshirt freshman, looks to draw from that experience in 2006 and translate it to success in this year’s battle with the Bulldogs.

“Game experience is like nothing else for teaching you how to play. You can get as many reps as you want to out in practice, but what you do in the game and the time you have in the game is what makes you a better quarterback,” Smelley said. “Looking back on [last year], I wasn’t nearly as ready as I am now. I definitely feel a lot more comfortable this year.”

The receiving duo of McKinley and Lecorn must run precise routes and hold onto the football to keep Smelley in rhythm with the rest of the offense, as they face a talented SEC defense in the Bulldogs.

Lining up opposite of the Carolina receivers for Mississippi State will be Anthony Johnson and Marcus Washington at cornerback. The two have contributed to a pass defense that has given up 658 yards and only four touchdowns through the air, good for third in the SEC.

However the real test for the offense will come in the form of Bulldog safety De’Mon Glanton, who has shown the ability to be the difference maker in an SEC contest. In last weeks game against Gardner-Webb, Glanton grabbed his first interception of the year and returned it for 60 yards a touchdown. McKinley thinks that he and Lecorn can be at their best, despite the efforts of the MSU defense. “I think Dion will go out there and do a great job, catch everything thrown to him, run good routes and have a great day,” McKinley said. “We’re feeling good. We just try to play better than the week before and get better every week.”

South Carolina’s defense has excelled so far this year against the pass. They are ranked second nationally in pass defense at 103.5 yards per game, and pass efficiency defense with a 73.44 rating. But teams like Mississippi State may not need to worry about throwing the ball. Instead, they will run the ball straight at South Carolina’s run defense, which is surrendering 216.5 yards per game. This puts the Gamecocks 104th out of 119 schools in run defense. “We are just seeing more runs than passes because we’ve not stopped the run as well as we need to. We do play pretty good pass defense. We’ve got some corners that can really cover,” USC coach Steve Spurrier said. With the loss of defensive end Nathan Pepper and linebacker Jasper Brinkley in the last two games, the defense will have to find a new anchor to stop the run. Starting in place of Brinkley this weekend will be junior Marvin Sapp. Sapp has experience playing the last two seasons, but has not started consistently in his career. “Marvin has played well at times, and not so well at times. Marvin is excited about this opportunity. I think he had a heck of a game last year at Mississippi State” Spurrier said. In 2006, Sapp started against Mississippi State and registered seven tackles, two for a loss, and a sack.

Spurrier said, “He’s ready to play. He’s looking forward to his chance.” This year, Sapp and the rest of the defense will have to contend with Bulldog running back Anthony Dixon. Dixon has rushed for 349 yards and 4 touchdowns so far this season. The Bulldogs will need him to carry the offense as their starting quarterback Michael Henig is sidelined with a hand injury. Spurrier said this week, “Mississippi State is mainly a running team. I read in the paper they may play two quarterbacks and run them in with plays, which sort of makes sense.” Most likely, MSU head coach Sylvester Croom will utilize both his backup quarterbacks as he has been doing since Henig’s injury. Backups Wesley Carroll and Josh Riddell have combined to complete 16 of their 34 pass attempts for 191 yards since Henig was injured in the Auburn game. If South Carolina can slow down Dixon and the MSU run game, they can force the Bulldogs to go through the air to move the ball. This is a situation Croom likely does not want his team to get into. For this to happen though, the Gamecock front seven

will have to step up. Young players such as freshman defensive end Cliff Matthews and defensive tackle Ladi Ajiboye will have to make an impact against Dixon. “Obviously the other teams run more than they throw at us. We’ve got to get better in run defense, much better,” Spurrier With Jasper Brinkley out for the season, his brother Casper will be the only senior starting for the Gamecocks on defense this week. When asked if there will be a leadership problem in the absence of Jasper, Spurrier said, “Jasper’s a quiet leader over there. But we’ve got a lot of guys ready. We’ve got some linebackers that just have to grow up fast.”

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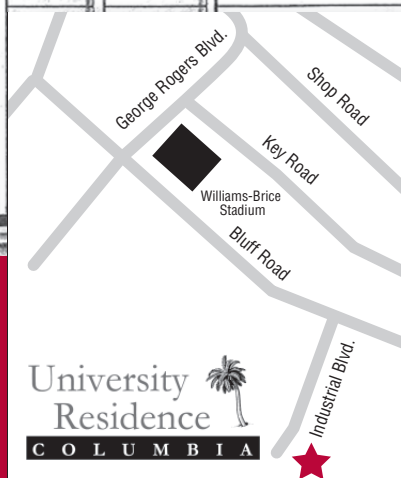
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5 Questions with Jake Broom

1. How will the loss of Jasper Brinkley affect the Gamecocks?

I never thought it was possible to convey depression through a text message until the day it was announced Jasper was out for the year and my inbox filled up. It was like the entire university all found out there is no Santa Claus at the same time.

Yes, Jasper was an absolute monster. He knocked out quarterbacks at the same rate that I knock out half gallons of banana pudding ice cream. But USC's defense will survive. Marvin Sapp and Melvin Ingram are very capable. They might not be All-SEC, but they will get the job done.

The only question I have is did Casper's knee hurt when Jasper got injured? I wonder if he cringed. Can we see this on tape? These are the things I think about.

2. Will there be a hangover from the LSU game?

After giving an all-out effort last Saturday, getting motivated to face Mississippi State at a 12:30 game could be a problem.

It is hard enough for most college students to be upright at 12:30 PM on a Saturday, let alone playing a football game.

If USC can play as well against Mississippi State as they did against LSU, this game should be no problem. If the Gamecocks are still sulking over last week's loss, things could get interesting.

3. Can USC's defense stop the run?

I've been asked this question for three years now. I really don't know the answer. The players have improved, the coaches have improved, but USC's run defense is still pretty terrible.

Last week they made Trindon Holliday, an Oompa-Loompa, look like Barry Sanders. They made Louisiana-Lafayette's quarterback look like pre-federal penitentiary Michael Vick.

Gamecock fans brag about their No. 2-ranked pass defense, but of course the pass defense is great—nobody has to throw

the ball to score. If I was Mississippi State head coach Sylvester Croom, I wouldn't even bring a quarterback to Columbia. But, after watching Croom coach for three years, I wouldn't be surprised if he came out with five wide receivers and tried to air it out. Speaking of Sylvester...

4. Does Sylvester Croom even know what day of the week it is?

Next to Bobby Bowden, Sylvester Croom is the most clueless head coach in college football today.

When backup quarterback Josh Riddell threw a touchdown pass last Saturday, Croom publicly criticized him, saying at times Riddell was "very lucky," and called his touchdown pass "a misread." Hello! It was a touchdown! It's not like you're coaching the Indianapolis Colts here! Touchdowns come to Starkville about as often as Mensa meetings. Maybe if Croom's quarterbacks had misreads a little more often, his career record wouldn't be 12-26.

5. Is Mississippi State for real?

Mississippi State has won three games. They have a respectable win against the worst team Auburn has had in six years, a win over weak Tulane—a lower-level Conference USA team, and a 16-point home win over mediocre I-AA team Gardner-Webb.

This isn't the typical three-win Mississippi State team. This one might win four.

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JAKE BROOM
Graduate student

Gamecock Challenge



Every week, our staff will predict 10 college games. If you think you know your stuff, submit your pick for these games to gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu.

 ALEX RILEY Sports Editor	 CORY BURKARTH Asst. Sports Editor	 MICHAEL AGUILAR Staff Writer	 AUSTIN COLLINS Staff Writer	 CALLI BURNETT Staffer of the Week	 SHELLEY KNOTT Reader of the week
WVU at South Florida Michigan at Northwestern Notre Dame at Purdue Ole Miss at Georgia Clemson at Georgia Tech California at Oregon Alabama at Florida State Auburn at Florida Michigan St. at Wisconsin Miss. State at S. Carolina	WVU Michigan Purdue Georgia Clemson Oregon Alabama Florida Wisconsin S. Carolina	WVU Michigan Notre Dame Georgia Clemson Oregon Alabama Florida Wisconsin S. Carolina	WVU Michigan Purdue Georgia Clemson Oregon Florida State Florida Wisconsin S. Carolina	South Florida Michigan Purdue Georgia Clemson Oregon Florida State Florida Wisconsin S. Carolina	WVU Northwestern Purdue Georgia Georgia Tech Oregon Alabama Florida Michigan S. Carolina
Last Week's Standings: Overall:	(6-5) (24-16)	(6-4) (29-11)	(6-4) (30-10)	(7-3) (20-12)	(5-5) (29-11)
					(6-4) (32-8)

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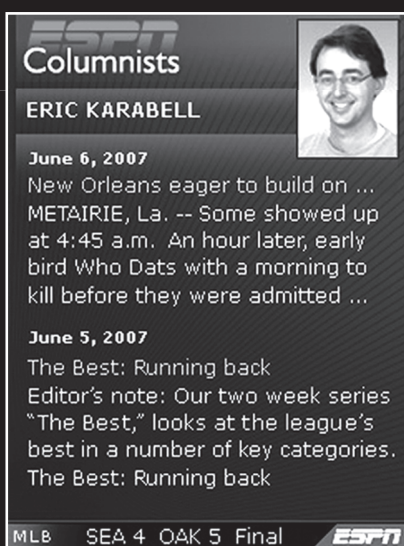
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PLAYS	BOX	MEDIA			
	1	2	3	4	T
PHI	7	0	17	0	23
STL	10	7	3	0	20
RECEIVING					
NAME	REC	YDS	TD		
Nicholas Hent	5	110	0		
Jamie Ryerson	3	89	0		
Dean Miles	3	43	1		
Jon Winters	2	54	0		
AJ Hammel	5	80	0		
Steve Dele	1	165	1		
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